Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, GW SUBJECT: VON HECKEL GAINS SUPPORT AS SPD'S 1978 CANDIDATE FOR LORD MAYOR

- 1. MUNICH SPD CHAIRMAN MAX VON HECKEL HAS OBTAINED THE BACKING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MUNICH SPD (SPD SUBDISTRICT MUNICH) FOR HIS BID TO BECOME SPD CANDIDATE FOR LORD MAYOR OF MUNICH IN THE 1978 COMMUNAL ELECTIONS. AT PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 7, MUNICH SPD PRESS SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT ON PREVIOUS DAY EXCOM VOTED 14 TO ZERO (WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS) TO RECOMMEND VON HECKEL'S CANDIDACY TO UPCOMING MUNICH SUBDISTRICT CONVENTION.
- 2. EXCOM ALSO VOTED TO RECOMMEND VON HECKEL AND FIVE WOULD-BE CANDIDATES FOR MUNICH CITY COUNCIL AS SPD'S "SPITZENMANNSCHAFT" FOR 1978 ELECTIONS. THE FIVE ARE: ALOIS MITTERMUELLER (FOR LABOR AFFAIRS); INGE HUEGENELL (FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS); DR. DIETMAR KEESE; HORST SALZMANN; AND FRITZ SCHUSTER. THEY TOO ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY SUB-DISTRICT CONVENTION.
- 3. COMMENT: TECHNICALLY, THE "SPITZENMANNSCHAFT" IS BALANCED BETWEEN "LEFTISTS" AND THEIR ALLIES (KEESE, VON HECKEL AND HUEGENELL) AND "MODERATES" (MITTERMUELLER, SALZMANN AND SCHUSTER). ASSUMING VON HECKEL IS CONFIRMED AS SPD MAYORAL CANDIDATE, HE FACES UPHILL BATTLE IN ATTEMPTING TO SHED "LEFTIST" LABEL HE HAS ACQUIRED AMONG MANY RANK AND FILE VOTERS HERE. CSU IS TAKING ITS TIME DECIDING ON ITS MAYORAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CANDIDATE; ITS DECISION IS NOT RPT NOT EXPECTED UNTIL MARCH 1977.

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